



February 9, 2005

Naval District Washington will host a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the Battle of Midway June 3 at 11 a.m. at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. Jan C. Gaudio, commandant, Naval District Washington, will host the proceedings.

The Battle of Midway was the turning point in the Pacific theater of operations during WWII and one of the most important battles of the 20th century. More than 300 Sailors and Marines lost their lives while defending the vital Midway Atoll from a Japanese aerial attack. Over the course of the ferocious battle, American forces took out four Japanese aircraft carriers, more than 300 airplanes, assorted ships and more than 3,000 personnel.

With the crushing defeat, the Japanese lost their ability to control the skies, lost most of their battle-tested pilots and never again went on the offensive for the remainder of the war.

Veterans of the Battle of Midway are highly encouraged to attend.

The historic ceremony and wreath-laying at the base of the Lone Sailor statue will be open to the public.

The Navy Memorial is located at 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., and is easily accessible by car, taxi, bus or subway.

For more information on the event, please call (202) 685-0875 or send an e-mail to richard.b.james@navy.mil.

**NDW Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
(202) 433-2218**